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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/687,136	10/17/2003	Robert Peter Ison	213411.00029	8259

27160 7590 08/17/2006

PATENT ADMINISTRATOR
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EXAMINER

CRABTREE, JOSHUA DAVID

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3715

DATE MAILED: 08/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding:

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/687,136

Applicant(s)

ISON ET AL.

Examiner

Joshua D. Crabtree

Art Unit

3715

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-3, drawn to a mechanical mock-up, classified in class 434, subclass 379.
 - II. Claims 4-14, 19, drawn to a system for providing training, classified in class 434, subclass 224.
 - III. Claims 15-18, drawn to a diagnostic tool, classified in class 434, subclass 118.
 - IV. Claim 20, drawn to a method of making invention II, classified in class 434, subclass 224.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Invention II relates to inventions I and III as combination and subcombination.

Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the system of invention II may comprise a mock-up other than the one specifically claimed in invention I, and may also comprise a diagnostic tool other than the one specifically

claimed in invention III. The subcombination, claimed in invention I, has separate utility such as use with another type of tool, or use in a different type of training system (such as training in computer circuits, logic gates, surgical simulation, etc.). The subcombination, claimed in invention III, has separate utility such as use for testing electric circuit components.

3. Inventions I and III are related as subcombinations of usable together. The related inventions are distinct if the inventions as claimed do not overlap in scope, i.e., are mutually exclusive; the inventions as claimed are not obvious variants; and the inventions as claimed are either not capable of use together or can have a materially different design, mode of operation, function, or effect. See MPEP § 806.05(j).

The inventions I and III are mutually exclusive. In the instant case, invention I, drawn to a mechanical mockup, is capable of being used with a diagnostic tool other than the tool claimed in III. Similarly, the tool of invention III can be used with a mock-up other than the mock-up claimed in invention I.

Inventions I and III are not obvious variants. Invention I is a mechanical mock-up, which is not an obvious variant of a diagnostic tool, such as claimed in invention III. Conversely, invention III is a diagnostic tool, which is not an obvious variant of a mechanical mock-up.

Inventions I and III have a different design. The diagnostic tool, as claimed in invention III, has a different design than the mechanical mock-up claimed in invention I. Inventions I and III have different functions. The mechanical mockup of invention I

functions as a representation of a machine interface. The diagnostic tool of invention III functions as a device which takes readings or measurements.

4. Inventions I-III are related to invention IV as product and process of making. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown:

(1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product. See MPEP § 806.05(h). In the instant case, inventions I-III can be created by a method other than the specific method claimed in invention IV. Additionally, the method of invention IV can be used to produce products other than the inventions of I-III.

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua D. Crabtree whose telephone number is 571-272-8962. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30, Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert P. Olszewski can be reached on (571) 272-6788. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3715

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JC

Joshua D. Crabtree

July 25, 2006

Kathleen Mosser
KATHLEEN MOSSEER
PRIMARY EXAMINER